

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS PROJECT PROPOSALS

Name of Project: Turnbull NWR Invasive Species Education and EDRRP

Refuge/Wetland Management District: Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge

Total amount requested: \$13,200

Project Description: Volunteers have since 2004 undertaken a refuge-wide, GPS-based invasive plant survey and assisted with our Early Detection and Rapid Response Program (EDRRP). Past surveys have resulted in the location of several previously unknown populations of spotted and Russian Knapweed, yellow starthistle and medusa head wild-rye which received rapid response control actions (manual removal, chemical application, and biocontrol). The refuge has recently purchased several tracts that need to be surveyed and mapped. Turnbull's Environmental Education Program hosts over 3,700 students per year on refuge. This program provides an opportunity to educate students through an invasive species display at the refuge's indoor classroom about the impacts of animal and plant invasive species to native ecosystems, their identification, and prevention measures. Funding from this grant will allow for the purchase of a new GPS Unit, bio control agents, chemicals and application equipment to facilitate the rapid response phase of the project, purchase of line drawings of invasive species and taxidermy mounts of invasive animal species for the display, and to hire either an AmeriCorps member or independent contractor through the Refuge's Friend's Group. The AmeriCorps member/contractor will assist with coordinating the Refuge EDRRP through the summer of 2015. The AmeriCorps member/contractor, Refuge Wildlife Biologist, Visitor Service Manager and Friends of Turnbull NWR will recruit, and train volunteers in the use of GPS equipment, survey software, EDRRP protocols, and work with volunteers to develop the invasive species display for the EE classroom.

Friends Groups, Volunteers and Other Partners: The Friends of Turnbull NWR will provide the AmeriCorps member and assist with outreach and volunteer recruitment through their newsletter and membership. Washington Service Corps is our partner for the AmeriCorps program. Technical assistance will be provided by the partners in the Cooperative Weed Management Area (Lincoln County Conservation District., Lincoln County Weed Board, and Spokane County Weed Board, and Washington State University Extension). Total partner contribution to project: \$20,000.00 (in kind services)

Criteria for Project Success: At least 3 volunteers will be recruited and trained to conduct Early Detection Surveys. At least 2,000 acres will be systematically surveyed. All new locations of yellow star thistle, knapweeds, common bugloss, leafy spurge and medusa-head wildrye will be treated with appropriate IPM strategies. All areas treated the previous 2 years will be revisited to evaluate their effectiveness and retreat if possible. A display using line drawings, taxidermy mounts, fact sheets and eye-catching graphics will provide information on the 10 most common invasive plant species and 6 invasive animal species in our EE Classroom. This information will also be incorporated into the refuge web-site.

Comment [BF1]: I can't tell who is going to do this work. It sounds like volunteers map invasive plants and the staff does the ED/RR. So the premise of the grant is to get funding to cash in on the volunteer's previous hard work and put it to good use. Yet, that does not quite fit the intent of the RFP. This proposal should have come in under ISCP.

Comment [BF2]: Yes, but will they be in charge of the volunteers? Why is part of their salary coming through Invasives with Volunteers? To qualify, this position would need to be the equivalent of a volunteer coordinator.

Comment [BF3]: Who will do the surveying? The 3 volunteers? And how often with the volunteers contribute time?

Budget:

AmeriCorps member/Independent Contractor (FOTNWR)	\$3,200
BioControl Agents (insects) and Herbicides	\$3,500
New Trimble GPS Unit	\$2,500
Ten Line Drawings of Invasive Species	\$1,500
4 taxidermy mounts for display	\$2,500
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Total:	\$13,200